

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit

Citizens Informational Workshop



**Proposed Extension of Fire Tower Road (SR 1708)
Between the Proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass and
Memorial Drive (NC 11-903),
Pitt County
WBS # 41136.1.1**

TIP PROJECT U-5006

May 8, 2012

PURPOSE OF THE CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP



The purpose of this workshop is to involve the public in the project development process and to inform citizens that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) proposes to extend Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) from the proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass to Memorial Drive (NC 11-903). Public involvement is an integral part of the NCDOT's project development process. The concerns of citizens and interest groups are considered during project development studies. **Often, additional project alternatives are studied or recommended alternatives are changed based on comments received from the public and/or local officials.**

NCDOT realizes individuals living close to a proposed project want to be informed of the possible effects of the project on their homes and businesses. However, exact information may not be available at this stage of the project development process. For example, design work is necessary before the actual right of way limits can be established. This type of detailed information will be available at a later date. The purpose of this workshop is to receive your comments *before* final design decisions are made.

At this meeting, there will be maps available to show you the proposed project designs that have been developed up to this point and NCDOT staff will be available to answer any questions you may have. It is also helpful for property owners to inform NCDOT staff about your property, i.e., if you have a farm that operates on both sides of the road, if your well or septic systems are close to the existing road, or if you currently have multiple access points to your property. Please take time to review this handout for detailed information about the project, take a look at the maps, feel free to ask questions and submit your comments.

Written comments on this project may be left with NCDOT representatives at the workshop or mailed to the address below. If additional information is needed or you would like to submit comments after the workshop, please address requests and comments to:

Write: Dr. Gregory Thorpe, Manager
ATTN: Kristine O'Connor, P.E., Project Development Engineer
Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1548 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

Call: Kristine O'Connor, P.E., Project Development Engineer
(919) 707-6034

Email: kaconnor@ncdot.gov

THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Planning and environmental studies for federally funded highway projects are conducted in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The type of document published following the planning study depends on the magnitude of the project and its expected environmental impact. NCDOT is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project.

The Environmental Assessment will discuss the purpose and need for the proposed improvements, evaluate alternatives, and analyze the project's impact on both the human and natural environment. The document will address the following areas of concern:

Efficiency and safety of travel	Wildlife and plant communities
Neighborhoods and communities	Water quality
Relocation of homes and businesses	Floodplains and streams
Economy of project area	Farmland
Land use plans	Archaeological sites
Historic properties	Hazardous materials
Wetlands	Traffic noise
Endangered species	Air quality

****Please note NCDOT may need to come on your property to evaluate these areas of concern****

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLEMENT

CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP – Informal meeting with the public. NCDOT staff conducts these workshops to speak one-on-one with citizens about projects. Comment sheets are provided for citizens to write down their questions, comments, and concerns. The number of workshops scheduled for a project depends on the scope and anticipated impact of the project.

PUBLIC HEARING – One or more formal public hearings are held and public comments are recorded. Format typically involves a short presentation, followed by an opportunity for citizens to comment.

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION – Copies of environmental documents are submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution and a notice is published in the NC Environmental Bulletin. Upon request, NCDOT will provide copies of the document to the public. Copies are available for public viewing at NCDOT offices in Raleigh and the Division, the State Clearinghouse office, local government offices, including the local council of government office, and local public libraries.

CITIZEN LETTER – Citizens are encouraged to write to NCDOT and provide information and express concerns regarding proposed improvements at anytime during the process. Correspondence from citizens and interest groups is considered during the course of planning study and is included in the project file.

PROJECT HISTORY

In 2006, NCDOT performed a feasibility study for this project which investigated the proposed extension of Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) from Frog Level Road (SR 1127) to Memorial Drive (NC 11-903). In this feasibility study, Alternative 3 was chosen as the recommended alternative.

This project was also identified in the 2009 Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (GUAMPO) Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), which was developed jointly between NCDOT and the Greenville MPO. The CTP was revised in November 2011, and adopted by NCDOT's Board of Transportation in January 2012. In that document, the extension of Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) was identified as a need in order to relieve future congestion issues related to traffic growth in this area of the Greenville MPO. The CTP also noted that the proposed project will provide better system connectivity in this area.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed project is to provide improved east-west system connectivity between the proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass (TIP Project # R-2250) and Memorial Drive (NC 11-903), while also relieving traffic congestion on Forlines Road (SR 1126) in the design year. Additionally, the proposed improvements will offer a better means of access to local destinations in the Greenville/Winterville area, such as Pitt Community College, Vidant Medical Center, and adjacent residential developments.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The NCDOT proposes to improve Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) between the proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass and NC 11-903 (Memorial Drive) near the City of Greenville & the Town of Winterville in Pitt County. The length of the project is approximately 4.3 miles.

The proposed improvements include five different alternatives, all of which include some new location sections, as well as the widening of some portions of existing roads to a four lane, median divided section with 12-foot lanes.

PROJECT SCHEDULE & COSTS

Current Project Schedule*

Project Milestone	Schedule
Environmental Assessment (EA)	February 2014
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)	January 2016
Right of Way	FFY** 2020
Construction	Unfunded

* The tentative schedule is shown below. A number of factors can affect a project schedule, so schedules are subject to change.

**FFY = Federal Fiscal Year

Current Estimated Project Costs

Right of Way	\$6,400,000
Construction	\$14,100,000
Total	\$20,500,000

OTHER PROJECTS IN THE AREA

R-2250C: This project involves the construction of the proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass from Forlines Road (SR 1126) to US 264. Right of way is scheduled for State Fiscal Year 2020 and construction is currently unfunded.

U-2817: This project proposes to widen Evans Street/Old Tar Road (SR 1700) to multi-lanes from Worthington Road (SR 1711) to Greenville Boulevard (US 264A). Right of way is scheduled for FY 2019 and construction is scheduled for FY 2020.

Title VI Public Involvement Form

Completing this form is **completely** voluntary. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

Meeting Type: Citizens Informational Workshop Location: Pitt Community College	Date: 5/8/2012
TIP No.: U-5006 Project Description: Proposed Extension of Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) from the Proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass to Memorial Drive (NC 11-903)	

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any of the Department's programs, policies, or activities, based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, income, or gender.

Completing this form helps the NCDOT meet its statutory obligations for data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and NEPA. Please place the completed form in the designated box on the sign-in table or mail it to the NC Department of Transportation, PDEA – Human Environment Section, 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598.

All forms will remain on file at the NCDOT as part of the public record.

Zip Code: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Street Name: (i.e. Main Street) _____	Age: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
Total Household Income: <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	Have a Disability: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Race/Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	National Origin: (if born outside the U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican <input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____

How did you hear about this meeting? (newspaper advertisement, flyer, and/or mailing) _____

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact the NCDOT Title VI Section at (919) 508-1808 or toll free at 1-800-522-0453, or by email at slipscomb@ncdot.gov. Thank you for your participation!



**NC DOT - PDEA
Human Environment Section
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1598**

RESPONSE SHEET

**Proposed Extension of Fire Tower Road (SR 1708) from the
Proposed Greenville Southwest Bypass to Memorial Drive (NC 11-903)
Near the City of Greenville/Town of Winterville, Pitt County**

TIP NUMBER U-5006

May 8, 2012

Name: _____

(Please print)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Provide your responses to assist the project team in understanding the issues in the area:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.

Send comments to: Dr. Gregory Thorpe, ATTN: Kristine O'Connor, Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit,
North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548

**Citizens Informational Workshop
Comment Sheet (Continued)
U-5006**

Was the project adequately explained to you? Yes _____ No _____

Were NCDOT representatives understandable and clear in their explanations?

Yes _____ No _____ Additional comments: _____

Were NCDOT representatives courteous and helpful? Yes _____ No _____

Were display maps and handouts easy to read and understand? Yes _____ No _____

How might we better present proposed projects and address citizens' concerns in future informational workshops?

How did you hear about this meeting today?

Based on the information available, were all substantial questions answered?

Yes _____ No _____

What was the most helpful aspect about the workshop today? What was the least helpful?

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE WORKSHOP.
YOUR COMMENTS ARE VERY IMPORTANT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS.

Send comments to: Dr. Gregory Thorpe, ATTN: Kristine O'Connor, Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit,
North Carolina Department of Transportation, 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548